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SUBJECT: S/CT POPE AND EU CT COORDINATOR DE VRIES REVIEW

U.S.-EU COOPERATION

1. Summary. Acting CT Coordinator William Pope met with EU CT Coordinator Gijs de Vries to review areas of current and potential future cooperation on terrorism. Asked by de Vries where EU Member States should invest more effort, Pope responded that Europeans should look carefully at their legal structures, including the lenient sentences being given to convicted terrorists. The MS need to look also at small Islamic groups which are not assimilating into European society. De Vries noted the obstacles to using intelligence information in criminal prosecutions and that the EU was interested in working with the U.S. on this. Regarding CT assistance to third countries, de Vries noted the EU intended to visit Morocco soon to look at its financial intelligence units and police training and is considering a visit to Tanzania. The EU is pleased with the new CT center in Jakarta and is open to further assistance to this organization. The EU also wants to explore potential future assistance with Pakistan. He praised U.S.-EU cooperation generally, including terrorist finance and judicial/police cooperation with Europol and Eurojust. He especially noted EU satisfaction with the Policy Dialogue on Border and Transport Security. De Vries promised to look into the Commission competency issue affecting bilateral U.S. Coast Guard assessments of international port security in EU Member States. End summary.

2. In a courtesy call on the EU's CT Coordinator Gijs de Vries following their joint appearance at a Brussels conference on European Security, Acting CT Coordinator William Pope reviewed areas of current and potential future cooperation on terrorism. Asked by de Vries where EU Member States should invest more effort, Pope responded that Europeans should look carefully at their legal structures, including whether CT laws are in place that would enable law enforcement to work more effectively, and at the lenient sentences being given to convicted terrorists. The MS need to look also at small Islamic groups which are not assimilating into European society. De Vries acknowledged the wide divergence in sentencing practices throughout the Union, but said there has been some recent harmonization of minimum sentences. The EU needs to do more in terms of critical infrastructure protection. De Vries noted the obstacles to using intelligence information in criminal prosecutions and said the EU was interested in working with the U.S. on this. "Bringing terrorist criminals to court and convicting them is fundamental to winning public support for the governments' CT program," de Vries said.

3. Regarding CT assistance to third countries, de Vries noted the EU intended to visit Morocco soon to look at its financial intelligence units and police training and is considering a visit to Tanzania. The EU is pleased with the new CT center in Jakarta and is open to further assistance to this organization. The EU also wants to explore potential additional CT assistance with Pakistan. Pope observed that an area needing attention by the West is education and public diplomacy about our CT objectives and motivation. For example, while the majority of the religious schools in Pakistan and Indonesia perform well their educational duties, there is a minority of these schools where hatred of the West is taught with minimal government oversight or restrictions. Our assistance programs to third countries should include efforts to redress this situation.

4. De Vries praised U.S.-EU cooperation generally, including terrorist finance. Judicial and police cooperation with Europol and Eurojust are underway. He especially noted EU satisfaction with the Policy Dialogue on Border and Transport Security. De Vries asked about the U.S. commitment to station an FBI agent at Europol. USEU/NAS Kerber responded that the FBI had opened a suboffice in The Hague on December 5 to handle both bilateral and Europol business with an emphasis on terrorism. He further noted that the assignment of an FBI agent to Europol was predicated on the revitalization of its counter terrorism task force. The exact functions of this agent depend on how this unit develops.

5. De Vries asked the U.S. view on efforts within the UN for a new convention to define terrorism. Pope responded that he was not hopeful about this initiative. A universal definition of terrorism has not been possible to achieve to date. De Vries commended the recent disaster management exercise held in DC by Johns Hopkins and the U. of

Pittsburgh, and suggested this issue be considered for future U.S.-EU cooperation.

16. Pope raised the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) mandate to assess the effectiveness of anti-terrorism measures in international ports. The U.S. has approached several EU Member States to do such an assessment and some have indicated an interest in a visit by the USCG. But the EU Commission has said it has competency over this issue, thus halting the bilateral discussions. De Vries said he wasn't aware of this issue but thought the Commission may indeed be on "solid legal ground" with its claim. He promised to look into the issue and get back to the Mission.

This cable has been cleared by S/CT Pope.

Schnabel

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